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On June 28, 2000

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 18696-000130US

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GROUP 3700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Kenneth P. Lanahan, Thomas G.
Durham, Stephen C. Foreman

Application No.: 09/433,543

Filed: November 3, 1999

For: AN IMPROVED SYNTHETIC
PANEL AND METHOD

Examiner: Marc W. Butler

Art Unit: 3726

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the March 28, 2000 Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 24, line 23, after "slots" insert the following paragraphs:

Another embodiment of the present invention provides a method for producing a plurality of polymeric foamed material structures having seared surfaces for contacting brace members comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a block of polymeric foamed material which is preferably stationary, having a side and a pair of opposed ends;